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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Walter Feldman

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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Walter Feldman
Date:	1998 Aug. 10
Identifier:	AAA.feldma98
Creator:	Feldman, Walter, 1925-2017 (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
Extent:	1 Sound cassette (Sound recording (90 min.); analog) 30 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Walter Feldman, 1998 Aug. 10, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Walter Feldman, 1998 Aug. 10, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives of American Art Oral History Program, started in 1958 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and administrators.

Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Restrictions

This transcript is open for research. Access to the entire audio recording is restricted. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Walter Feldman (1925-2017) was an artist and art educator of Providence, R.I. Established Ziggurat Press in 1984 and, as teaching adjunct at Brown University, the Brown/Ziggurat Press in 1990.

Scope and Contents

An interview with Walter Feldman conducted 1998 Aug. 10, by Robert Brown, for the the Archives of American Art, in Feldman's home, Providence, R.I.

Scope and Contents

Feldman discusses attending classes as a youth, 1939-1942, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; attending Yale's School of Fine Arts, 1942; service in combat infantry in the U.S. Army, Europe, 1943-1946; completing his BFA at Yale, 1946-1950 and MFA, 1951; working as an instructor in painting at Yale until his appointment at Brown University (1953; professor 1961) where he continues to teach; exhibitions and commissions; working in painting, printmaking, mosaics, and in fine book making.

Scope and Contents

He discusses working as the sole studio art teacher at Brown University until mid-1960s; hiring of additional artist-teachers and the subsequent split of the art department between studio art and art history; bringing book arts to Brown with his establishment of the Brown/Ziggurat Press, which he directs and which mostly publishes poetry; the many visiting artists at Brown; frequent commissions which have kept him young in spirit; and working in widely divergent media: medals, mosaics, and a huge mural commission in 1976; discussion of leading examples of his handmade books, including James Schevill's poetry, "Lager Lieder" (1991), a book of concentration camp songs, and Michael Harper's "Family Sequences" (1998); broadsides he's designed, sculptural "reliqueries" to memorialize the Jewish Holocaust; the current prospering of his artists books; and his success as a teacher.

System Details

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassette.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Artists -- Rhode Island -- Providence -- Interviews
Artists as teachers
Artists' books

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Brown University -- Faculty
Harper, Michael S., 1938-
Schevill, James Erwin, 1920-
Yale University. School of Fine Arts -- Students
Ziggurat Press

Occupations:

Art teachers -- Rhode Island -- Providence -- Interviews